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WASHINGTON, APRIL, 1871.

[No. 4.

LIBERIAN PROGRESS.

It is difficult to conceive how any friend of the people of color can read the concise message of President Roye, and the interesting articles from the *Liberia Register* for December 24, 1870, and for January 16, 1871, to be found in the present REPOSITORY, without being moved to a lively interest in the progress of the African Republic, and of enlarging the work of the Colonization Society.

“The wonderful door that has recently opened to the large and influential tribes of the interior shows how God is leading on in this work, and saying to His people, ‘go forward!’ The fact that they have put their entire population under the political auspices of the Liberian Republic, is a remarkable one. These people are Mohammedans, not idolaters. The demon prejudices of heathenism are not encountered with them. Here is vantage ground to start with. And just at this time is the opening presented when the Word of God may be given to the Mohammedan in the language in which the Koran is written—as one of the fruits of Missions, and the persevering labors of translators. Heretofore it was impossible to get the Bible into the hands of Mohammedans, because of the pride respecting the immortal Arabic—possessed of divinity in itself, and no book not written in that language was worth reading or fit to be read. Such is the creed of Mohammedans.”

But now “Arabic Testaments” are sent through Liberia to these interior tribes, and they are reading them and asking for Christian schools! Who does not see the hand of God in this? If the Christian pastors and people of America mean to convert Africa, this inviting field should be occupied without delay. Let us speed the mighty work by giving it our sympa-

thies, our prayers, and our liberal contributions. O, for that whole-hearted, unreserved consecration on the part of every Christian, of body and soul and wealth, which the love of Christ and the great exigencies in Liberia demand.

ANNUAL MESSAGE OF PRESIDENT ROYE.

Gentlemen of the Senate and House of Representatives :

It is a constitutional duty imposed upon the Chief Magistrate to lay before you annually a statement of the condition of the country, in respect both to its home and foreign affairs. In attempting to perform this duty, I have to invite you to join with me in thanksgiving to the Father of all mercies for the marked favors which as a nation have attended us during the past year.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

By the unanimous consent of my Cabinet, it was thought necessary that, in pursuance of an act of the Legislature, certain foreign interests should be attended to by the President in person, the most important of which was our English complications. I, therefore, sailed from this port on the 10th of June last, and returned on the 12th of November. An absence of five months from the Republic has made me, in a great degree, dependent upon my constitutional substitute and the members of the Cabinet for information in relation to home matters.

I take great pleasure in informing you that our foreign relations are in a satisfactory and hopeful condition. When I left here our relations with Great Britain were seriously threatened, in consequence of the misunderstanding which grew out of the unfortunate affair at Manna, in the early part of 1869. But in two interviews which I had while in London with Her Majesty's Secretary for Foreign Affairs, I succeeded in restoring the former friendly understanding, excepting that Earl Granville insisted that the money which we had agreed to pay, in consequence of the seizure and destruction of British property in the Manna district, should be paid.

Since my return home a very lengthy dispatch has been received by the Government from Earl Granville, in which all our matters of difference are reviewed in an amicable manner; and his lordship suggests that two commissioners be appointed on the part of Great Britain, and two on the part of Liberia, in co-operation with one from the United States, to act as umpire, to investigate the validity of our title to the Northwestern territory claimed by the Republic, and that the decision arrived

at by the said commissioners shall be final. The Secretary of State will lay the dispatch before you for your consideration.

Before leaving this subject, you will be gratified to learn that during my travels, especially within Her Britannic Majesty's dominions, I was treated with the utmost courtesy; and a banquet complimentary to Liberia was given to me, a few days before my leaving London to return home, by a number of distinguished gentlemen in that city.

I cannot omit to mention the special attention which I received at Sierra Leone from His Excellency Sir Arthur E. Kennedy, the Governor in chief, and from the African citizens of that colony, who, on my homeward voyage, waited upon me by deputation to extend the expression of their sympathy with Liberia in our efforts to establish here an independent negro nationality. This I looked upon as one of the most pleasing incidents of my visit abroad, as it seemed to indicate the approach of the day when there will be an understanding and friendly and intelligent co-operation among the civilized and Christianized descendants of Africa on this coast, both native and colonist.

CONSUL-GENERAL IN LONDON.

I regret to inform you that the increasing infirmities of age have deprived the Republic of the able and energetic services of Gerard Ralston, Esq., who for fourteen years has rendered most efficient services to Liberia as Consul-General of this Republic in London. He richly deserves the lasting gratitude of the Liberian people for the invaluable services he has so faithfully rendered. He resigned his office in the month of October last. David Chinery, Esq., highly recommended by Mr. Ralston, as well as by his past services in behalf of African interests, has been appointed to succeed Mr. Ralston.

VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES.

My visit to the United States was also of a gratifying character. On the 8th of September last, I had a most interesting interview with President Grant at the Executive Mansion in Washington, and I was pleased to notice the earnest interest manifested by the Chief Magistrate of that great Republic in our little State, and the readiness which he exhibited to do whatever he could to promote the welfare of Liberia. Through his kindness I was enabled to negotiate with the United States Government for a beautiful little iron steamer, the "Rescue." It only remains for you to provide the means to bring her to Liberia.

CAPE PALMAS DIFFICULTIES SATISFACTORILY SETTLED.

I am gratified to be able to inform you that the unhappy difficulties which occurred at Cape Palmas in the early part of

my administration, precipitated by reckless and disappointed demagogues, have been brought to a satisfactory settlement. The people, during my absence from the Republic, seeing the error of their course, quietly allowed J. W. Good to take his position as Collector of Customs and Postmaster of the port of Harper, to which he had been appointed by the Chief Executive, with the advice and consent of the Senate. But this was not done, unfortunately, before their rash and intemperate proceedings had laid them and the whole Republic open to the adverse criticism and severe censure of the civilized world. It is to be hoped that the experience of the past year has been fraught with wholesome lessons that will not soon be forgotten.

NATIONAL FINANCES.

The derangement of the national finances presents a question of pressing interest. I earnestly entreat you to give your most careful attention to this subject. It is admitted on all hands that one of our sorest needs at present is pecuniary capital. Our currency, because it calls for gold on its face, and because of its great depreciation in the hands of the citizens, but always paid into the custom-house at par, has very much crippled the operations of the Government, and impaired its credit at home and abroad. And yet this is an exceedingly difficult question to manage in our circumstances. Its difficulty has been proved by the number of years during which it has been a vexed and perplexing question. It is difficult to meddle with the medium of exchange without inflicting hardships either on creditors or debtors.

The consolidation of the national debt is one of the means by which that debt may be converted into a sort of available capital and circulate as money upon the faith of the Government which renders itself worthy of credit. Other nations have resorted to it when unable to pay at once the individuals holding claims against their governments. Consols are held by the individual creditors upon the faith of the Government, such as those in circulation in Great Britain and the United States, drawing a certain interest, payable at certain periods named in the law. These consols are transferable for money for a sum little less than the face of them calls for. But stability in the Government, honesty in handling the revenue, the certainty of receipts in excess of disbursements, equal to so much yearly, which can be relied on as a definite sum, amounting to such and such debts to be paid at certain estimated periods of time, must be regarded as indispensable. I commend this subject to your serious consideration, and would suggest that you make stock out of all those debts, to be paid off gradually within a certain number of years to be named by

law. For this purpose it is advisable that you pass a law requiring all persons to deposit their claims against the Government, and to take these bonds, &c., within a specified time.

It is of great importance to ascertain the amount of debentures issued according to the law which authorized them, since it appears that many of these debentures were issued without being registered.

I recommend the adoption of a charter for an individual, and also a charter for a National Bank, and that the one or the other or both shall go into operation as soon as practicable, as funds can be found for the purpose. I am sure that many benefits will accrue to our farmers and mechanics by a sound monetary system to be put on foot by observing the condition above stated.

There is a company of gentlemen being formed in London, to furnish either the coin or every description of merchandize to take up the Liberian currency. If you can so legislate as to show them due protection and a margin of remunerative profits, they will hold out important advantages to Liberia. The prospectus of the company is in my possession, which, if desired, I will lay before the Legislature.

In behalf of the Republic, I entered into a contract with a rich merchant in London for the sum of \$20,000, which might have been extended to \$40,000 at will. After the contract had been made and signed, I requested him not to forward the money until you had made provision for its payment according to the contract. The copy of the contract shall be laid before you for consideration.

During my absence, a contract was entered into by the acting President with N. J. A. Malschalk, Esq., Agent for Messrs. H. Muller & Co., of Rotterdam. A copy of said contract shall be laid before you.

I regret to inform you that the Secretary of the Treasury having persisted in repeated refusals to make his quarterly reports, as the laws requires, was dismissed at a meeting of the Cabinet on the 22d of November last. It becomes your duty, under the circumstances, to appoint and send an able committee to examine the books and investigate the condition in which he left the Treasury Department.

COUNTY SEAT—COMPILATION OF LAWS.

The law for removing the county seat from Monrovia to Clay-Ashland has not been carried out, because of a want of funds to erect the necessary buildings.

The compilation of the laws authorized at the session of the Legislature of 1868-'69, is in progress.

INTERIOR COUNTRY AND POPULATION.

The Government, in consideration of the prospect of an increased commerce presented by the rich advantages which the Barline tribes and country offer, appointed Hon. W. S. Anderson a commissioner to go through that region of country and make such arrangements with the tribes as may facilitate intercourse. The results thus far attained by the treaties made with the natives and the building of block-houses for the protection of trade, exceed the anticipations of the Government. The report of Mr. Anderson will be laid before you.

It would be a great dishonor to us not to attempt to develop the rich resources beyond us, though it be in an imperfect way. And, if we make such laws as shall liberally protect capital that may be invested in the country in the construction of railroads, &c., we cannot fail to stimulate the enterprise and bring into relief the capacities of the country.

The report of the Secretary of the Interior *ad interim* will also be laid before you.

INDIVIDUAL AND NATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY.

With the large native population available to us, with our natural gifts of climate and soil, with our forests of precious woods and our mineral wealth, there is open before us, if we only manifest a little energy and enterprise, a future of unbounded prosperity and material development. Notwithstanding all the sore trials and difficulties with which we have been beset, Liberia is to become one of the most important agencies in imparting light, civilization, and Christianity into this part of Africa. And I would here remind you of the providential warning in the past of our history, that those who will not discharge the sacred duty entrusted to them of building up a *Negro nationality* on these shores, will be removed in some way or manner to make room for those who will. And remember that you are *honorable* members of the Legislature to no greater extent than your actions prove it by the enactment of such laws as shall promote your country's highest interest, irrespective of party bias. It is a mistaken idea that a tricky, scheming, selfish, or deceptive man in any Legislature is truly an honorable, simply because he had been elected to a seat in one or the other branch of the Legislature. The higher men are elevated, the more careful they should be to deserve well of their countrymen, and the more anxious they should be to show their fitness for the position. For their enlarged influence puts it into their power to disseminate evil examples among the masses of the people.

Upon you depends the character of the masses. Where there is no honor or fixed principles among the leaders of the

people, the people become corrupt. The profession of religion among them becomes a mere form; social intercourse is sadly deranged; confidence between man and man, necessary to do business, is greatly impaired; and all healthful growth is impeded.

SETTLEMENT OF NATIVE WARS.

I recommend that you pass a vote of thanks to the various Superintendents who have persevered and settled old and long-standing wars among the natives, as the report of Hon. S. A. Horace, S. J. Crayton, Richard Ford, and John Hagan will show.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.

In pursuance of a resolution passed at your last session, authorizing the President to cause an election to be held on the first Tuesday in May, 1870, to ascertain the opinion of the people of the constitutional amendment, I have to inform you that the said election was held, and according to the returns made to the Department of State of said election, the constitutional amendment was considered carried; and I have caused a proclamation to be issued to that effect.

Matters referred to the Judiciary will be laid before you in another communication.

CAUSES FOR GRATITUDE.

I feel unwilling to close this communication without expressing my heartfelt gratitude to Almighty God for the kindness vouchsafed to me in preserving my personal health while abroad, in granting me favor among the people, and in permitting me to return safely to our beloved Liberia.

EARNEST HOPE, AND PROMISED CO-OPERATION.

It is my earnest hope that harmony and good will may mark your deliberations during the present session, and that the laws made will redound to the highest interests of the country and of our race.

I will most cheerfully co-operate with you in all measures that look to the progress and prosperity of our common country.

EDWARD JAMES ROYE.

MONROVIA, *December 8, 1870.*

LIBERIA METHODIST MISSION.

Bishop Roberts, of the Liberia Annual Conference, writes officially and encouragingly of the work under his care. He says:

In the month of May I visited our several points of operation in the Bassa district, namely, Marshall, Mount Olive,

Durbinville, Edina, Bexley, and Buchanan, *via* Ammons (native) station. Brother Deputie being up and returning accompanied me. Our route was mainly inland, and traveling by canoe, riding, and walking much of the distance, which, under the most favorable circumstances, is rather fatiguing. To sit in a "dugout," (canoe,) twenty inches wide, four or five days successively, propelled by hand paddles at the rate of three or four miles an hour, and then change to walking over prairie lands and the heavy sands of a sea-beach, unfavorably compares with the ease and comfort of steamboat and railway locomotion.

Our first Sabbath after leaving Ammons station—which is not, aside from the existence of a small society of native members, very inviting—we spent at Mount Olive, a native station. At 11 o'clock, A. M., a full congregation assembled, natives mainly, for religious worship, whom I addressed, and my remarks were translated by a native local preacher into their native tongue. During the services there was an exhibition of a lively faith in the "one living and true God." The presence of an old man of seventy summers was particularly attracting. He came forward after service, shook hands, and said he came to the Christian station to better enjoy and learn more about his new-found religion. This old man is in a leading position among his people of the Beah tribe, some seventy-five miles in the interior. He heard for the first time the gospel preached in his country by the native local preacher mentioned above, some two years ago, and was soon convinced his way was "dark" and led to "death," and was brought to the light of truth. Sabbath afternoons are devoted to the interests of the Sunday-school, of which there is one well conducted. In this capacity I met some thirty-nine youths of both sexes, besides several adults. The scene was very interesting. Our hopes in several beat high for future usefulness to thousands in the surrounding country. Several of these youths are members of the church, and one an exhorter.

The new house for divine worship, of which mention was made in a previous letter, approaches completion slowly. Its external appearance adds much to the view of the station. It is of native construction, with doors and windows of framework. When finished, and a bell (which I hope some kind friend of missions will soon furnish) hanging in the cupola, it will be the best chapel of the kind I have seen, and ample for the purpose intended. To promote the interests of this point in its various departments Brother Deputie is zealously engaged, and its advancement is visible.

From Mount Olive we returned to Marshall. At 7 P. M., according to notice, we met a congregation in the little church,

to whom I preached, after which I proceeded to ordain to the order of Deacon, W. H. Davis, local preacher, as ordered by our late Annual Conference. The society in Marshall is numerically small, but a rising spiritual state is apparent.

Leaving Marshall very early next day, we ascended the Barga River about eight miles to Rev. Mr. Herndon's mission station, and thence proceeded to Durbinville mission station, distant about thirty miles. The mission house at this point is now undergoing some repairs, which must of necessity be very limited and not at all equal to the demands. At this station there is a well-organized and prosperous Sabbath-school of thirty-two scholars, twenty of whom are natives. During our visit Brother Pitman informed us that he had suspended his day-school in order to give attention to the repairs of his house. At the time of our visit there was no house for religious services except the mission-house. Brother Kennedy subsequently in a letter says, "At present we have our house built and dedicated to the Lord."

We left for Edina, twelve miles distant, and safely arrived, and met a welcome reception from Brother I. R. Moore, presiding elder, whose guest we were during our stay. Edina has much improved within a few years in buildings and commercial operations. On Sabbath I preached to a very respectable and attentive congregation, with evidence of a healthy spiritual state. Brother Russ, local preacher, now in charge of the circuit, is fully at home in his duties, and zealously prosecuting them. Our day-school, under the direction of W. H. Jacobs, teacher, is doing well. Twenty-three were present when I made a call, which number is about two-thirds of the entire school according to its roll.

Our next visit was to Bexley, nine miles up the St. John's River. I spent a very pleasant and, I trust, profitable Sabbath here, and preached to a crowded congregation and wakeful hearers in a large room in the Receptacle building, which is now used instead of a church edifice. After services, Brother Moore received twelve persons into the church. The work on this circuit increases, and demands additional laborers, which we cannot for want of means well supply. We left, after spending several days in Bexley, for Buchanan. This city is one of the most important in this region, and steadily rising. It is the center of commercial operations, in which several foreign houses are prosecuting extensive business. I spent a Sabbath at this place, and preached to the people. We have an inviting membership, to which some of the most important families belong. A few of the members and others have contributed toward their pastor's salary during the last three years. Our Sunday-school I found advancing in interest. The efficiency of the

officers and teachers has given an impulse to this department of the work, which if persevered in must be of incalculable benefit to the church. We have also an excellent teacher in Brother B. J. Forbes for our day-school. I met in this department twenty-seven scholars. The teacher took the opportunity to examine several classes in practical arithmetic and on black-board, geography, and English grammar. The examination was very satisfactory. The number of scholars in attendance was much below the roll of the school, as you will discover in reports of said school furnished subsequently by the teacher, which accompanies this. The day and Sunday-school departments of our general work are very important to us here as elsewhere.

Our work extends, and urgently demands increased labors. I may truly say, "The harvest is great but the laborers are few." The means to send them out is needed. We have encouraging reports from every quarter of the state of the work, and from some points of its progress and the advancement of the kingdom of Christ.

Brother Ware having recovered from a recent severe illness, from which he barely escaped, writes June 7: "Our quarterly meeting has just closed, and O, what a precious season we had! God was specially present. We are protracting, for the signs of the times bid fair for a general and gracious shower." In another letter he writes, "Several young men of much promise have obtained the peace of God."

Brother N. D. Russ writes: "I have been steadily laboring to promote the work, and, am glad to say, not in vain. Our last quarterly meeting was attended with much interest to the rebuilding of Zion and the ingathering of souls. Praise the Lord."

Rev. L. R. Roberts, at Robertsport, writes: "We have an interesting protracted meeting in progress. Among those seeking the salvation of their souls are several natives, apparently deeply concerned; and up to this time some thirty have professed to enjoy peace through the merits of Christ."

In connection with other duties I continue to direct the special work on this St. Paul's River circuit, supplying the charge when distant. The last six months have devolved much labor to meet regular appointments. Through the mercies of God my strength has been equal to duty, and the charge is in a peaceful condition. Some weeks previous I visited Chase's Town, Congo, at which we have a growing society of native members, five miles distant interiorward, for the purpose of dedicating a small chapel for the worship of God. The larger portion of those assembled were compelled, for want of room inside, to find seats outside. We had a precious season. I returned home not over-fatigued after walking ten miles.

In June I attended quarterly meeting in Monrovia, and took part in the religious services, and enjoyed a profitable season. The love-feast and administration of the Lord's Supper were seasons of much spiritual refreshing. It was truly gratifying to see so many of the number who were brought into the fold of Christ last October continuing in the faith, and professing a good profession before many witnesses in love-feast. The introduction of an excellent organ into the church at Monrovia is an improvement.

In July we had the pleasure of dedicating a house for worship, 35 by 20 feet, in Upper Caldwell.

Very respectfully yours,

J. W. ROBERTS.

LIBERIA LUTHERAN MISSION.

The following letter, dated November 3, with a supplemental note of December 5, 1870, published in the *Lutheran Observer*, is from the present superintendent of Muhlenburg Mission, St. Paul's River, Liberia.

Rev. David Kelly removed from Pennsylvania some eighteen years ago, and has been the warm and steady friend of the mission since its establishment. He is a man of influence and of education, having been a member of the Legislature of Liberia, and is now an ordained minister in the M. E. Church. He has a farm in the neighborhood of the mission.

Spiritually the mission is getting along very well. We had communion on Sabbath, October 16th, which was truly a blessed season, at which time *eleven* were received into the church. Two of these were reclaimed, who had been suspended by Brother Carnel for three months; they professed pardon and were received by the unanimous vote of the congregation; the rest professed conversion to God; one came from the Methodist church on certificate. Last night another native man from the Golah tribe found peace in believing. He is about 40 years old. Three others from the same tribe are under very serious exercise of mind, but have as yet no evidence of their acceptance with God.

I should like to have a talk with you about this blessed religion of Jesus among the heathen of Africa; suffice it to say, after they profess peace in Christ, they seem to know what is needful for them to be done. Strange as this may appear, it is no less the truth. So, then, I conclude, a man in Christ is one and the same any and everywhere he may be found in the world.

The church has been open for evening prayer-meetings for nearly a month, and is still open. The spirit of reformation and revival commenced about two weeks before our communion; and the Lord has gladdened many hearts since then. Even this very hour two Congo men have embraced Christ as their only hope of pardon and peace. This is the Lord's doing and it is marvelous in our eyes!

I spoke of repairs in my last to you. I am buying shingles now for the purpose of covering the church, boy's house, and prayer-meeting room, and some parts of the mission-house proper. The church building is rather small to accommodate all the members when they all come out; an addition ought to go on to it, making it a little longer; then it would do for a while.

Number and names of persons baptized, October 16, 1870: *Adults*—Anna Gundecker, Mary Eliza Ricks, John Harris, Matthew Benedict, Topsey Powers, and Nancy Harris. *Infants*—Augustus Lochman, son of Michael and Sarah Diehl, Wiley R. Geiger. November 6th: *Adults*—Alex. Wright, William Kiernans, John Taylor. November 13th: *Adults*—Abraham Outland, George Stelling, George Settlemyer, Henry Zeigler. *Infants*—Edward Hay. December 4th: *Adults*—Lewis Harris, and Davis Roe.

This makes the present list of communicants in the congregation 57—a small band to be sure; and perhaps of all God's dear children the feeblest and the poorest; and yet they are His children, embraced by His love and purchased by the blood of His Son, and destined some day to sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob in their Father's kingdom. May they be kept through faith unto eternal salvation!

Both the day-school and the Sabbath-school are doing well. In consequence of the increasing membership, it was thought necessary to have officers elected; accordingly, after due notice to the congregation, Michael Diehl and Samuel Sprecher were elected. These are faithful brethren, and prove a great benefit to the church. The latter is the teacher also of our day-school.

And now, my dear brother, pray for us; and may the whole church bear us on its petitions before "the common mercy-seat."

Your brother, in the love of Christ,

DAVID KELLY, *Sup't.*

LIBERIA EPISCOPAL MISSION.

Bishop G. T. Bedell, of Ohio, thus writes to *The Standard of the Cross*:

Our Missionary work on the West Coast of Africa is entering on an exceedingly interesting phase. Perhaps our Church

people do not realize either the extent or the limits of our efforts there. Liberia is our field, with all the territories adjacent that can be reached; all of them crowded with heathen. Liberia is an independent nation. Its inhabitants are partly emigrants from America. They have returned to their own land, in the third or fourth generations, after an enforced sojourn in this country. These emigrants carry their Christianity back to the coasts from whence their forefathers were dragged by slavers. In their new country, amidst the blessings of civilization and the arts of civilized life, they have set up churches and schools. They have their parishes and all organizations allied thereto. In this portion of the field, several of our clergy are laboring; but our Foreign Committee is to them chiefly in the relation of a Pastoral Aid Society.

Our special missionary work is among the native heathen around Cape Palmas and in the interior. Here our Missionary AUER is at work—our only white man, ordained, at present on the coast. He is assisted by two white female missionaries, who are doing a faithful, noble work in the midst of great depression and overpressing cares. But our great encouragement is in the activity and fidelity of the native catechists and candidates for orders. At the Hoffman Institute, young men are being trained for the ministry.

The January number of the *Spirit of Missions* gives a beautiful picture of the Cape whereon our missionary town has grown; a city set on a hill; a light among the Gentiles. Its pretty line of white houses, its school-house, a picturesque church in the midst, with the green sward round, and the homely shrubbery—I have heard them more than once described by our sailors, as a scene very charming to them, whilst their ships lay rolling in the offing.

Among the most encouraging signs to my eye, is a notice in the January number, which possibly many of its readers have passed over as of small account. It is to the effect that a system of street-schools has been commenced, intended to reach the multitude of children who are not sufficiently clad to come to the regular Mission schools. Brother AUER used to talk of it often when he was at Gambier. His heart was full of it. Now he is putting it into practice. He is carrying the gospel, in *their own tongue*, to those who will not come to receive it in the English tongue. It is strange that the effort is comparatively new. Small school-houses are put up in the native towns, costing \$50 apiece! Think of that! \$50 apiece for school-houses. And then they turn it into vestry-room and church. If that is not an economical mission, let us hear of the better!

DISCOVERY IN EQUATORIAL AFRICA.

Keith Johnston, Jr., son of the eminent geographer, and himself already an authority on the subject, sends the following communication to *The Academy*:

Perhaps the most important advance which has been made in geographical discovery during the past year has been the exploration of a large portion of Central Africa, lying to the northwestward of the great equatorial lakes, by Dr. Schweinfurth, already known through his botanical studies in the lower Nile valley, the first practiced traveler who has penetrated far into this region. The reports of the ivory traders, Piaggia and the brothers Poncet, had already indicated the great interest of this part of Africa, but it has been left to the German traveler, in reaching a position nearer the equator in the centre of the continent than any European has before attained, to determine the limit of the Nile Valley in this direction, and to cross the water-parting into a westward basin, presumably that of Lake Chad. As yet, only the outlines of Dr. Schweinfurth's discoveries have reached Europe. The newly-explored country lies to the south and west of the perplexing and variable entanglement of rivers and swamps which feed the White Nile from the west in its course between Gondokoro and the Bahr-el-Ghazal, through which Brun-Rollet, Petherick, Madame Tinne, and Von Heuglin have wandered, without entirely unraveling its plan. Beyond this swamp region to the water-parting southwestward, the land traversed by Dr. Schweinfurth forms part of a great sandstone formation. Its surface has two sharply distinguished characters of vegetation: that of the deeply cut channels of its numerous rivers and streams, whose banks are thickly overgrown with tall trees; and that of the grassy park-like steppes between these, with dwarf trees or clumps of bush. On the water-parting itself the aspect of the country changes and presents a system of bare and swampy flats, with a white sandy soil.

The ruling tribe of the inhabitants of the Nile watershed here is that of the Niam-Niams, who are described by the Marquis Antinori as men of powerful form and stately carriage, bronze-colored skin, and long sleek hair. On crossing the water-parting into a fertile country, where the oil-palm gives a new character to the landscape, Dr. Schweinfurth came upon a race differing from these in every respect. The Abanga and Monbuttu of the inner watershed are distinguished by the lighter color of their skin, and their blonde and frizzled hair is worn by both sexes in a high chignon. Though inhabiting a richer land than the Niam-Niams, and in the advance of them in agriculture and the arts, cultivating the banana and other fruits, trading in copper and forging weapons in iron,

the Monbuttu rank far beneath them in the scale of humanity. To the south of the Monbuttu is a dwarf race named Acka or Ticki-Ticki. The average height of the men of this tribe is five feet, but many do not reach this measure.

The most southerly point reached by Dr. Schweinfurth is in latitude $3^{\circ} 35' N.$, longitude $27^{\circ} 5' E.$ of Greenwich, 2,500 feet above the sea, and three days' journey to S. S. E. of the Niam-Niam chief Kifa's (now his son Kanna's) residence, the extremity of Piaggia's route. Here is the palace of Munsa, the chief of the Monbuttu, compared by the traveler to a middle-sized railway station in bulk and form. This capital is south of a great river, named Uelle both by the Niam-Niams and the Monbuttu, which is as large as the Blue Nile in summer at Chartum. It is formed near $28^{\circ} E.$ longitude by the confluence of the Gadda and Kibali, the latter apparently springing in the neighborhood of the sources of the Tonj, on the inner side of the mountains which enclose the Albert N'yanza. Farther on in its westward course the Uelle is said to receive two large tributaries from the south, and an affluent on the right bank, which Dr. Schweinfurth believes to be the river of Sena reported by Von Heuglin. The Uelle, which is navigated by native canoes of thirty feet in length and six feet broad, is the Bari or Babura River of the brothers Poncet, and since it maintains a northwesterly direction into the land of the Mohammedans, the "clothed people who pray on the ground," it is scarcely to be doubted that it is the upper course of the Shari River, the main supplying stream of Lake Chad. Piaggia and the Poncets report this river as flowing out of a great lake. Brun-Rollet and Von Heuglin each heard of a great lake in this region, and from these reports, especially from the apparently exact information of Piaggia, a fourth great equatorial sheet of water, of an extent rivalling the Victoria Lake, has been represented on recent maps to northwestward of the Albert N'yanza; but for the reasons that the confluence of so many large streams to form the Uelle, show that it is rather a mountain-born river than the outlet of a lake; and that though he came within a few days' journey of the position given by Piaggia to its northern shore, he could nowhere find any one who had seen or heard of the lake at all, Dr. Schweinfurth throws strong doubts on its existence. Still some weight must be given the independently-received information of the four travelers above named, and the question of the existence of this lake is still to be solved.

Thus the opening up of the African Continent is at last proceeding with rapid strides. The details of this journey, and of those which Dr. Schweinfurth was on the point of undertaking when his letters were dispatched, will give the accurate

geography of a portion of the western side of the Nile Valley; the corresponding eastern half in these latitudes is now being penetrated by the great discoverer, Sir Samuel Baker, with his Egyptian forces, and if, above all, there shall be added to this the long pent-up store of African knowledge which Dr. Livingstone now jealously guards, Inner Africa will no longer be counted among the unknown parts of the globe, and the time of great discoveries will be nearly at an end."

THE BEGINNING OF EMANCIPATION.

The late Rev. Dr. Burgess, of Dedham, Massachusetts, was sent out with Samuel J. Mills, by the American Colonization Society, more than fifty years ago, to explore the Western Coast of Africa. Rev. Dr. Baker, in a recent sketch of Dr. Ebenezer Burgess, in the *Congregationalist*, says:

"Never were two men better fitted to work together and to lay the foundation of a Republic: Mills being bold, adventurous, sanguine; Burgess, cautious, reserved, indefatigable; both of them, philanthropic, believing, hopeful, charitable, fired with zeal to ameliorate the condition of the sons and daughters of Africa in the United States; to provide a home for such of them as were, or might become, free, in the land of their fathers; to encourage emancipation in what were then slave States, and to hasten the day when Ethiopia should stretch out her hands unto God.

"Hence upon the resignation of his office in Burlington, he became the associate of Mills in a mission of inquiry to Western Africa, under the supervision of the American Colonization Society, with a view to establish a colony of the free people of color from the United States on that continent. This mission was the first step toward founding the Republic of Liberia, humble in its origin, but grand in its progress.

"The topics of inquiry were chiefly these: Is there vacant territory, which can be purchased? Is the climate pestilential to the man of color? Will there be danger from starvation by famine? Are the native tribes powerful and warlike? Will the English government allow the establishment of an American colony? On each of these points, his report is full and explicit. But on the voyage home, he was called by Providence to bury in mid-ocean his fellow-commissioner and to assume the entire responsibility of the commission.

"That report and the action taken upon it awoke the nation, constrained her to look with favor on the African, laid the foundation of a Republic, and by logical sequence led to emancipation in the United States."

From the Liberia Register, December 24, 1870.

AFRICAN LITERATURE.

The presence of a learned Native Mohammedan from Kankan, at the recent senior examination in Liberia College, marks an epoch in the history of Liberian education.

This distinguished Mandingo was introduced to the President of the College by the Professor of Arabic, and a seat was assigned him among the examiners. His bearing was easy and dignified, and he seemed perfectly at home among the bewildering mass of Arabic manuscripts which he had with him. He had the whole of the Makamat, or *the Assemblies of Hariri*, a portion of which has been recently translated by Professor Cheney of Oxford.

The class in Arabic was examined on the Seventh Makamat, and portions of the Koran. Our visitor followed the examination with great attention, and seemed gratified at the reading and pronunciation of the students. The Professor then requested him to read for the benefit of the students and the entertainment of the spectators. He read passages with great fluency and with the musical intonations of the Orientals.

It is now certain that Liberia College is known in the far interior, and the question of our relations with those distant regions might be easily and satisfactorily solved. By a little energetic procedure it would be comparatively easy to establish regular intercourse between Liberia College and the schools at Musardu, Medina, Kankan, and Fudah.

Some years ago, the Rev. Daniel Bliss, D. D., President of Syrian Protestant College, at Beirut, sent to Liberia College several Arabic books, printed in Syria, for distribution among the Arabic reading population accessible to Liberia. On a blank leaf in each of the volumes was printed an Arabic letter addressed "From the city of Beirut to the noble lords, living in Central Africa," proposing certain questions and requesting answers to them.

One of these books was handed to our visitor and his attention called to the questions, with a request that he would write answers to them. After looking them over once or twice, he wrote the paper of which we give a translation below.

The following is a translation of the paper written at Beirut:

"From the City of Beirut, in the Country of Syria, to the noble lords dwelling in Central Africa. Peace to all.

"O, ye noble lords! We have learned of the existence of tribes, whose language is the noble Arabic language, south of the Great Desert; and that they extend from there to the central countries of Africa; and as we desire information respecting them, we have taken this method for that purpose, hoping that

whoever may chance to receive copies of this paper may favor us with answers to the following questions, through the President of the College of Liberia, which is toward the west from your country, as we have understood; and by this means you will form a connection between yourselves and the learned men of the College of Beirut, and we trust that advantage will accrue to you from this.

“What is your religion? What is the number of your people? Is there unity among the tribes whose language is the Arabic, or are they divided into separate communities?”

“Are they all under one government? What is it? and where is its seat?”

“Are all the Arabic tribes in your country of one religion?”

“What is the extent of your country?”

“Are there among you many books? What are the names of the principal and most valuable ones? Are there among you authors? On what subjects have they written?”

To the above questions, Ibrahim, our learned visitor, wrote the following reply:

“In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate; God bless our lord Mohammed, his prophet, and his family, and his companions, and keep them safe.

“The learned men in our Country, Africa, to the learned men in Beirut, in the Country of Syria, peace to all;

“O, ye noble lords! Your letter and your questions have reached us, and we desire to send you answers to them.

“You ask, what is our religion? Our religion is the religion of Islam.* The number of our people is very great, and we are not divided into separate portions. We are all under one rule, and we belong to the sect of the Malikees. Our religion and the religion of the Arabs is one religion. The extent of our country is from Boporo to Soudan, and from Musardu, and Medina, and Kankan, and Futah, and Hamd—Allahi, and Jenne, and Timbuctu—all these cities have one religion.

“There are many books in our country, and the name of these books are: the *Makamat*, and all the *Makamat* are fifty, and the name of the author of the *Makamat* is Abu Kasim al Hariri; and the *Risalat*, and the author of the *Risalat* is Abu Mohammed Salihu; and the *Tawbid*, and the *Loghat*, and the *Tasrif*, and the *Kamus*, and the *Koran*, and *Jalal-o-din*; but the *Koran* is the chief of all books. Men know it and do not know it; they see it and do not see it; they hear it and do not hear it.

“There are many authors among us. And they have written

* The Mohammedans are divided into four parties or persuasions, viz: the “Hanafees,” “Shafees,” “Malikees,” and “Hambelees,” called so from the names of the respective doctors whose tenets they have adopted.—*Trans.*

encomiums or invocation of blessings on the prophet of God. The 'Bunmuhaib,' the 'Watirati,' the 'Salat Rabbe,' the 'Shifacee,' the 'Tanbihu-al-Anam,' the 'Dalail-al-Kheirati,'—all these are concerning the prophet of God, who is the chief of creatures, the lord of men, and of demons, and of genii, —Mohammed the apostle of God (God bless him and grant him peace!)

"The name of our town is Kankan. The name of the king of Kankan is Mahmud-a-Shafee. By sect Mahmud is skilled in letters and in war; and the name of the Sheikh of Mahmud is Al-hajj. He went on a pilgrimage to Mecca, and Safa, and Merwa, and Medina and Syria and Egypt. Then the pilgrim returned to Timbuctu, and journeyed from Timbuctu to Hamd-Allahi, and from Hamd-Allahi to Sofala, and from Sofala to Jenne, and from Jenne to Kankan.

"The authors born in our town, Kankan, are our Sheikh, Mohammed Shereef. He is the author of two books, and the names of the books, *Rawda Saadat*, (the garden of delight,) and *Maadan Zahab*, (the mine of gold,) and our Sheikh, Abubekr Shereef,—he is the author of one book, and the name of his book is *Daliya Saghir*, (the small vine;) and Amru Alkidi,—he is the author of many books, and the name of his town is Mahwu. The Imam of Kankan is Abubekr Shereef.

"In our town is much wealth, and the inhabitants are all Muslims; and there are horses and asses and mules and sheep and goats and fowls and gold and silver, all in great abundance in the town of Kankan. The journey from Musardu to Kankan is nine days, and on the road are many pagans; and the journey from Kankan to Futah is six days.

"The King of Kankan is a Shafee by sect. The King of Musardu is partly Muslim and partly pagan. The King of Boporo is a great pagan; his name is Mohammed Sabsu (Momoru Sahvu.) Praise be to God, the Lord of the three worlds.

"The name of the writer is Ibrahimia Kabawee."

THE FEAST OF RAMADHAN.

On the afternoon of the 24th December, in company with Senators Wright and Roberts, we started for the Mohammedan town of Vonswa, four miles north of the St. Paul's River, to attend the great feast of Ramadhan on the following day. This feast celebrates the revelation of the Koran.

We reached the town about six o'clock, P. M., just as the new moon had been descried, a fact which was announced by the firing of guns. Soon after we noticed groups of men in various parts of the town with sumptuous bowls before them,

breaking their fast. They fast during the day for thirty days preceding this feast.

On the following morning, about half an hour before daylight, the cry of the Muezzin summoned the faithful to prayer. We went out and witnessed the very impressive early morning worship of these devoted followers of Mohammed.

About nine o'clock, seventy-five men arrayed in new apparel, assembled for worship in an open space, and sat on skins in rows with their faces towards the east, facing the Imam, who conducted the services.

Near the close of the services a proselyte, a Vey man, who had recently embraced Islam, was formally received. He rose in his place in the congregation, and was exhorted by the priest, who welcomed him to the faith of Mohammed, and informed him that his name was thenceforward to be Ibrahima, (Abraham.) This the priest repeated four times and then pronounced a blessing upon the proselyte, who, after shaking hands with several of the old men, took his seat. Whenever a pagan embraces Islam he always receives an Arabic name.

After this ceremony a number of pagans—Pessahs—assembled on the left hand of the priest. He exhorted them on the importance of the religion of Islam and the futility of pagan practices, and having pronounced a benediction upon them, he dismissed them.

Senators Wright and Roberts having then by invitation addressed the multitude, through an interpreter, the congregation dispersed. The young people, joined by the pagan visitors of neighboring villages, entered upon the festivities of the day with music and dancing.

Our visit to these interesting ceremonies deepened our conviction that Mohammedanism is making rapid inroads among the surrounding pagans, while Christianity seems to linger paralyzed on the Coast.—*Ibid.*

THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.

The amendment of the Constitution of the Republic of Liberia, by which the Presidential term of office is extended to four years, and that of Representatives and Senators to four and eight years, respectively, was declared carried, by the vote of the House of Representatives, on the 27th instant.

An important epoch has now been reached in the history of Liberia. The Republic has been delivered from the trammels which from its birth have hampered it. The generality of the people of Liberia have long favored the lengthening of the Presidential term of office. The desirability of such an amendment is the prevailing sentiment of the country. Every one

has felt and deprecated the evils of the frequent electioneering periods. Every one has sighed for relief. Lately, however, the element of party feeling has largely entered into discussions of the question; and party jealousies have interposed barriers in the way of the adoption of the desired amendment. But we think that a measure, conceded by all to be so necessary and important, may just as well come now as at any other time. We do not anticipate from it all the appalling consequences which some predict; but we could on the contrary enumerate numerous advantages that must accrue from it to the country.

"Energy in the executive," says Judge Story, certainly one of the wisest men America has produced, "is a leading character in the definition of a good government. A feeble executive is but another name for a bad execution; and a government ill executed, whatever may be its theory, must in practice be a bad government."

Now from the beginning of the Liberian Republic, its executive has been feeble. And it is a wonder that matters among us have proceeded as well as they have. Being elected for the very short period of two years, the President has had little motive to hazard his popularity by steering an independent course. He had not the motive nor the means to acquire official capacity and experience. He could not get that mastery of his functions, without which it is impossible to discharge them with wisdom, with decision, or with firmness. He scarce became familiar with the duties of his post before he is called upon to abdicate. As soon as he was elected, all these things stared him in the face, and he began to arrange plans to secure his election a second time. He was then in the position of an expectant candidate—with the rod of a capricious constituency held *in-terrorem* over him. How, under such circumstances, could a President be otherwise than weak and vacillating? And it is hardly worth while that we should expatiate on the evils arising from this executive feebleness. Nearly every year during the last ten years we have been furnished with painful illustrations.—*Ibid.*

From the Liberia Register, January 16, 1871.

THE LEGISLATURE.

Our National Legislature is still sitting, and has been since the first Monday in December.

It is very evident from the condition of the country, and the recommendations contained in the President's message, that duties and interests of a very high character devolve upon the present session. We have now arrived at a very important

period in the history of Liberia—a period when something must be done, both to stimulate industry and enterprise at home, as well as to invite capital from abroad. The nation expects this from their Representatives in the Legislature. For this they have elected them. And for this they are willing to endure the heavy tax of our very expensive legislation. The eyes of the entire nation are now turned to the Senate Chamber and the Representative Hall, eagerly expecting such results from their labors as will inaugurate a more hopeful state of affairs in this infant Republic.

The nation wants a *sound financial policy*. Vague and inoperative enactments on this subject will not answer for the present crisis. Something practicable is absolutely necessary to meet the emergency. In speaking of a money policy, we do not refer altogether to a plan for securing loans: this may or may not be practicable. But we urge the necessity of so regulating the collection of our revenue, arising from import and export duties, and direct taxation, that the Government may get the benefit of the same to meet her current expenses. Some of us believe that our annual income is sufficient under proper regulation to fully meet our demands. Consolidate the floating debt of the nation, put on foot a rigidly economical system for collecting our revenue, and the foundation for future prosperity is laid.

Again, the nation wants some well-defined immigration policy, the object of which will be to secure an increased civilized population from the United States, West Indies, South America, Canada—all parts of the globe. As a Government, we are doing absolutely nothing in this matter. Whatever number of emigrants are sent to us by the American Colonization Society, we receive and are apparently satisfied with; whether that number be two hundred a year, two thousand, or none. But suppose this Society sends no more, disorganizes, and abandons the enterprise; shall we remain perfectly indifferent as to the increase of our population? No sane politician could advocate this. No, as a Government we should take up this matter, establish a Bureau of Immigration, and put forth every means to secure a large and rapid increase of our civilized and enlightened population.

Again, the nation wants some proper, equitable, well-regulated system for bringing in more rapidly our native brethren. While it cannot be denied that to civilize and christianize them to the extent that *we* are, will require perhaps a long period of missionary labor; yet many tribes about us are *now prepared* to make *useful citizens*. If we will continue to push back into the interior as we have commenced, enter into treaty stipulations with the native tribes, admit them to citizenship, extend

to them protection, laws, and schools, and require them to contribute to the support of the Government, we shall soon spring out of this state of weakness and imbecility. We shall soon find ourselves in the possession of all the men and means necessary to answer our most urgent demand.

We hope that the Members of the Legislature will realize the weighty responsibilities resting upon them, and fully prove themselves equal to the task of the hour.

THE BOPORO WAR.

Recent intelligence from the interior brings the cheering news that both of the belligerent chiefs, Mormoru and Weta, are tired of the warfare in which they have been engaged for the last several months. While a number of towns have been destroyed, and lives lost on both sides, neither has gained any great advantage over the other. Both are anxious to stop fighting, but neither is willing to be the first to give up.

That the war may be stopped, and both chiefs retire from the field on equal terms, they desire our Government to interfere and settle the matter. We are glad that they have come to this point.

In keeping with our policy, efforts were made before hostilities commenced to prevent this war. But so bitter were the feelings existing between the contending chiefs, that nothing short of steps which the Government did not at the time feel warranted in taking could arrest it. Now that they are convinced, however, of the unprofitableness of war and bloodshed, and see the great damage that they are sustaining thereby, the Government will no doubt readily avail itself of the opportunity of seeking to secure a permanent settlement of the difficulties.

We hope that commissioners will be sent out as soon as practicable, terms of peace proposed, and treaty stipulations at once entered into with the chiefs. This effected, they should both be invited to the capital, and entertained with the respect due to their rank and position.—*Ibid.*

EMIGRANTS.

The Ship "Golconda" arrived at this port on the 23d of December, with 196 emigrants, mostly from the State of North Carolina, sent out by the American Colonization Society. On the voyage they had the benefit of the medical skill of Dr. J. A. Parm, and were generally in good health on their arrival. One hundred and twenty-six of them are to settle at the new settlement of Arthington, and the remainder at Brewerville.

Both of these settlements are on the St. Paul's, and are said to be fine and healthy locations.

Until their houses are erected on their own lands, at the places above named, they are occupying the Society's building in this city, with some private houses. They are expecting to have their houses completed in three months' time, when they will be moved up. Early after their arrival, the Government surveyor went up with the male adults and commenced the survey of their lands, and we learn that the surveys are nearly completed.

Each family has an allotment of one town lot and twenty-five acres of farm land; and each single person of mature age has one town lot and ten acres of farm land. We learn that the necessary tools have been furnished for their use, and that boats are provided for their conveyance every week to and from those settlements, where the male adults are actively engaged in clearing off their lands and in getting out lumber for their houses. They go up to their work on Mondays, and return on Fridays of each week. Aside from their support and care, and the necessary tools and facilities for going up and returning from their work, the Society's Agent, we learn, is furnishing them aid in getting their lands cleared off and planted, and in the erection of their houses.

We highly commend the course pursued in settling the previous company at Arthington and Brewerville, and that which is now being done for the present company. The result of this course is seen with the previous settlers at the two places named, who appear to be contented, and are living comfortably on their own lands, and in their own houses.—*Ibid.*

LIBERIA COLLEGE.

The commencement exercises of this institution took place in Trinity Church, Monrovia, on the 13th ult. The spacious edifice was filled with an attentive audience.

After the opening services, the Salutatory address was delivered by Mr. J. R. Priest, the Valedictory by A. B. King, and the Baccalaureate by Rev. A. Herring, Vice President of the Board of Trustees. Addresses were also made by Messrs. Davis and Erskine. The degree of Master of Arts was conferred on Messrs. J. E. Moore and A. T. Ferguson. That of Bachelor of Arts on Messrs. Priest and King, the late graduates. The parchments were presented by the President of the College with appropriate remarks.

Professor H. R. W. Johnson conducted the music. The number of graduates was only two. While we must not despise the day of small things, yet we cannot help hoping that the day is not distant when we shall see graduating classes of dozens and scores emanating from Liberia College.—*Ibid.*

VISIT TO SIERRA LEONE.

Professor E. W. Blyden and C. T. O. King, Esq., left in the steamer of the 9th inst. for Sierra Leone, where they propose spending a week or two.

The Professor will no doubt enjoy the visit, as well as find himself profitably employed in visiting the missionary and educational institutions of the Colony. He will also have a fine opportunity, by lectures and otherwise, of seeking to stimulate those feelings of fraternal sympathy that are now so happily growing between Sierra Leonians and Liberians. We are one in race, one in sympathy, and one in work—the elevation of the negro. Why should we not co-operate?

C. T. O. King, Esq., who has successfully engaged in mercantile operations in Monrovia for several years, and who has become a naturalized Liberian, revisits his old home to enjoy again the greetings of friends, and to look upon familiar faces.—*Ibid.*

THE CHRISTIAN REPUBLIC.

We are gratified to observe, in the Philadelphia *Christian Instructor* the report of a lecture by E. S. Morris, Esq., on "Liberia as I saw it." The subject needs a fresh presentation, for the smoke and turmoil of our own mighty struggle have almost hidden from our sight the little colony planted on the coast of Africa half a century ago. Yet its claims to our consideration are numerous and important. A strip of territory, seven degrees from the line, extending along the coast for six hundred miles, and abounding in the productions of the tropics, Liberia is to be considered not in itself alone, but as opening a gateway to the undeveloped and almost unknown resources of a continent. But it is not of its commercial importance, however great, that we propose to speak. Originally founded as a home for the freedmen, Liberia has become a flourishing, independent Republic, with a population of six hundred thousand souls, a Government modeled after our own, a College, a system of free schools, and all the usual appliances of civilization. Our constitutional amendments, releasing the sons of Africa from the fetters and stripes of bondage, have not destroyed the feeling of caste, which is nearly as strong as ever, and will not be eradicated for many generations, if indeed it is at all. To render the freedmen all the justice in our power, we should return to their ancestral land those of them who desire to go. There they will be free from the bitter sense of degradation which attends them here, for Liberia is the land of the negro, and the white man is there a foreigner.

Of "all the wealth piled by the bondman's two hundred and fifty years of unrequited toil" we can surely spare a small

part to aid in restoring him to the ancient home of his race. He has indeed cost us enough already, but that was our fault, not his. Justice requires of us that we assist the Christian Republic of Liberia. With the growth of its dominion the interests of Christianity will be advanced, and, as a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump, at no distant day the worship of the God of Israel may prevail in the land of the Pharaohs.—*The Schoolcraft (Michigan) Dispatch.*

From the Christian Intelligencer.

MERAf.

In India there has been established by concurrent usage the name "Eurasian," for the offspring of the European father and Asiatic mother. By the same process of word-making I desire to suggest the title "Meraf" as a substitute for the unwholesome word "Mulatto," by which we mark the child of the American father and negro mother.

Of course, "Ameraf" would be the full compound, but I regard the dissyllable (pronouncing it Mer-raf) as preferable, and would modestly give my reason for asking the attention of the intelligent observer of events and men.

When we use the terms "blacks" we have firm footing, but in what grades and varieties does our mention of "colored people" involve us? My suggestion looks to the encouragement, in the African, of respect for his race and color and of hope for black nationality *somewhere*. And, if *we* shall adopt the new term, and the Meraf resent it as invidiously distinctive, may not ulterior preventive good ensue?

To show to the Meraf in the University at New Orleans that a genuine negro of fast color *can* master Greek and Hebrew, with other scholarships, Rev. Chas. H. Thompson has recently gone from a Newark pastorate. The honest blackness of the President of the Liberian Republic and the accomplished African Professor Crummell, a graduate of Oxford University, is pleasing as it is sure. I would like this proposal thought fairly over.

S.

DEATH OF BISHOP ANDREW.

The *Western Christian Advocate*, Cincinnati, Ohio, thus announces the death of this eminent and revered divine, one of the oldest Vice Presidents of the American Colonization Society, having been first elected to that position December 15, 1835:

Bishop Andrew was born in Elbert county, Georgia, May 3, 1794. He commenced preaching in his eighteenth year, and

was admitted into the South Carolina Conference in 1813, being then in his twentieth year. The South Carolina Conference at that time included the States of Georgia and Alabama. In 1832 Mr. Andrew was elected Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He subsequently connected himself with slavery by marriage, and was invited by the General Conference of 1844 to desist from the exercise of episcopal functions until he could disentangle himself. This action was resisted by the Southern preachers, and became the immediate occasion of the secession, which resulted in the organization of the Methodist Episcopal Church South. Since the death of Bishop Soule, Bishop Andrew has been senior Bishop of that Church. He preached in New Orleans on the 19th of February, and addressed a Sunday-school in the afternoon, which proved to be his last ministerial work. On Tuesday morning, he was smitten with paralysis. The next day he was conveyed to Mobile, where he resided, and died at fifteen minutes past eleven o'clock at night, March 1, 1871. His talents, experience, and energy in the ministry, as well as his connection with the rupture of the Church, will give him a conspicuous place in the American Methodist history. One by one the fathers are leaving us. Let us all remember the shortness of mortal life, even when extended to the full measure of days allotted to us on the earth.

For the African Repository.

MARBLEHEAD, MASSACHUSETTS, COLONIZATION MEETINGS.

On Sabbath, February 26, Rev. D. C. Haynes, District Secretary of the American Colonization Society, preached in the First Congregational church on the missionary aspects of the Society's work. Amongst other illustrations of the deadliness of the West African climate to most white men, he stated the following touching incident:

Some forty years ago, Bishop Hedding, of the M. E. Church, appointed Rev. M. B. Cox missionary to Africa. The general feeling was that Mr. Cox could not live in Africa long enough to justify his being sent, and his brethren tried to influence him against accepting the appointment, but he replied: "I do not expect to live long there, but if I am spared to commence work, I shall establish a bond of union between the M. E. Church and Africa which shall never be broken." In a very short time after he had entered upon his work he sickened and died; but in his last hours he said: "Let a thousand die,

but let not the mission be given up." Thirteen of the thousand are now buried by his side in Monrovia.

All the Boards of Missions have had a similar experience in their prolonged efforts to evangelize West Africa by means of white men. What wonder then that the venerable Rev. Dr. Anderson, Secretary of the American Board, said: "To no practical conclusion have I come more decidedly than that Western Africa must be evangelized by Africans or their descendants." The experience of the Colonization Society for fifty years demonstrates that the descendants of Africa from this country can live, and thrive, and be eminently useful there. And now, in emancipation in this country, God has provided a sufficient number of Christian people for this work to make it rapidly successful. Will not the churches aid those of our colored people desirous of going to Liberia to engage in this work? We think so.

A union meeting was holden in the Baptist church, in the evening. It was entirely filled, and Mr. Haynes spoke for more than an hour on the general work of the Colonization Society in Africa. He was followed by Rev. Dr. Lawrence, of the Second Congregational church, and Rev. Mr. Patch, of the Baptist church, both of whom highly commended the work as explained. Rev. Mr. Allen, of the First Congregational church, was detained from the meeting by sickness. COM.

LETTER FROM HENRY W. DENNIS, ESQ.

MONROVIA, *February 7, 1871.*

MY DEAR SIR: The homeward steamer has just come in, a day earlier than she was expected, and consequently I am unable to write you but a short note.

Our emigrants are getting on finely thus far. All the male adults, from the second week of their landing, have been actively engaged in work on their lands and in getting lumber for their houses. I have been up arranging for their settlement and welfare.

Yours truly,

H. W. DENNIS.

THE BARLINE COUNTRY AND PEOPLE.

LETTER FROM REV. ALEXANDER CRUMMELL.

Attention is invited to the following letter from the Rev. Alexander Crummell, regarding an interesting and promising field opened by the Government of Liberia to Missions and settlement, and which ought to be occupied without delay:

At the distance of about 120 miles, interiorward, is the country of the Barline people; a lofty, cool, mountainous country, containing a large and crowded population, numerous towns, unusual and superior civil regulations, and distinguished, withal, by great industrial energies. The capital of the country is a large city, surrounded by a wall of stone. Here two market days are kept every week; and thousands of people, even from remote distances, come with both domestic and foreign goods, provisions, and cattle in large numbers for sale.

Important manufactures are carried on in all this region. The people make all their own warlike and agricultural instruments; cultivate and cure their own tobacco; weave their own cloth; prepare their own salt.

But they are heathen, and are imbruted by all the grossness and ferocity of deadly superstition. Indeed, the section in which they live is a part of that vast interior land which I believe to be the darkest place on earth: that quarter of the continent where never missionary or traveler has penetrated for adventure, or for the purpose of carrying the "glad tidings." Two hundred miles from the coast there is a vast range of country, extending from about longitude 3 deg. to longitude 10 deg. west of Greenwich: which, without doubt, has remained for ages isolate and disconnected from the outer world; where Christian or Mohammedan never trod; and where, save by a few visits from the Cavalla missionaries, and especially by my former pupil, Rev. Mr. Seton, heathenism has reveled for ages, undisturbed in its own rank and deadly barbarities.

The Government of Liberia has recently sent a Commissioner to the kings and headmen of this country. He was received with gladness and distinction. With the utmost willingness they ceded their territory to the Liberian Government, and our national flag now floats within the bounds of their capital. The chief motive which has led them so cordially to subject

themselves to Liberian authority is the desire for an easy access to the Coast, and safety and security in journeys thereto. The faith of the Liberian Government is pledged to them, that this security and safety shall be fully given them. Already, block-houses (small forts) are being erected at stages of fifteen and twenty miles, for the purpose of keeping open roads, and maintaining peace on the road to this country.

The chiefs and headmen express strong desires for teachers, for the instruction of their children; and declare their willingness to receive missionaries. I have had a long conversation with the Commissioner; and he assures me that there is now every facility offered for founding a Mission among this people. He intends, please God, to make another visit to Barline early in October, in order to convey the chiefs to Monrovia, at the time of the next session of the Legislature in December, and he very kindly gave me the privilege to join his party for a missionary visit.

I repeat, that it is my conviction that this is the greatest, most promising, most secure opening which our Mission has ever had to the interior of Africa. It seems to me desirable that a missionary should be sent there, *i. e.*, to the capital, without delay; that a good substantial house should be at once erected; that a school-master should accompany the missionary; that two mature and intelligent and pious females, Liberian women, should be connected with the party; that a superior outfit should be furnished, so that the Mission should be commenced in the sight of the heathen with strength, and not with a show of weakness and littleness; with some of the outward seeming that God's Church comes there to do God's work in earnestness and solemn reality.

ITEMS OF INTELLIGENCE.

ADDITIONAL MAILS FOR LIBERIA.—Under arrangements made conjointly by the African Steamship Company and the British and African Steam Navigation Company, the number of monthly mail services from Liverpool to the West Coast of Africa is about to be increased by two additional steamers, sailing respectively on the 18th and 30th of each month. There will therefore henceforward be four outward mails every month, viz: By British and African Steam Navigation Company's ship on the 6th and 18th; by African Steamship Company's ship on the 24th and 30th.

EMIGRATION TO LIBERIA.—There is a steadily increasing stream of applications for emigration to Liberia, the flourishing African Republic, established by such noble American philanthropists as the Rev. Robert Finley, D. D., the Rev. Archibald Alexander, D. D., the Rev. Samuel J. Mills, and a host of others. Earnest Christians of all denominations have united in this great work for the uplifting of the African race. Henry Clay and Stephen A. Douglas, James Buchanan and Abraham Lincoln, while holding opposite views on many other subjects, were the earnest advocates of this philanthropic work. The openings for usefulness in Africa are wider than ever before. Pious freedmen are anxious to go and build up a tropical negro nationality, to do for Africa a work similar to that of the Anglo-Saxon in America. Friends of republican institutions, we ask your aid for the Christian Republic of Liberia! Friends of missions, we ask your help for the pious colonists, who are ready, with strong arms and warm hearts, to go forth as sappers and miners to assail the strongholds of Satan in Africa! Let each one do something.—*Rev. Thomas S. Malcom, in the Presbyterian.*

A RETURNED LIBERIAN.—Richard Howard, who went to Liberia from this city, in November, 1869, has returned on a brief visit. He desires to organize a select company to settle at Harrisburg, on the St. Paul's River, in Liberia. He is delighted with his African home. His health has been better there than in Philadelphia.—*Philadelphia Inquirer.*

STEAM NAVIGATION OF THE QUANZA.—The steamer Conga, belonging to the River Quanza Navigation Company, left St. Paul de Loanda early in December for that river. For six months the Quanza has not been navigable for vessels of the Conga's draught, but at this season the river begins to deepen, and it is expected that this steamer will be enabled to proceed a hundred miles up the river to Dondo. This will be an advantage, as during the period the water is low the produce has to be brought down from various towns in barges, occupying fourteen or fifteen days, whereas the Company will now have regular communication with Dondo once a-week, or even oftener if necessary.

DIAMONDS STILL ABUNDANT.—The South African papers still teem with glowing accounts of the new diamond fields in the Vaal valley. The Orange Free State fields, adjoining Cape Colony, have so far proved most prolific. *The Cape Argus*, published at Cape Town, says: "In our last summary for the English mail, we pointed to the fact that not fewer than 883 diamonds, the estimate value of which was put down at £30,500, were exported from this port during the month of September. By the Northam, which leaves to-morrow, further shipments of diamonds will be made." A correspondent of the same paper at the diamond fields writes: "Here on the banks of the placid Vaal River, a diamond of the first water, eclipsing in size and beauty the 'Star of Africa,' has been found. Hundreds and hundreds of persons saw the gem. There have been more diamonds discovered this week than in any previous week since the first diamond was picked up, and they have averaged from one to twenty carats."

Receipts of the American Colonization Society,

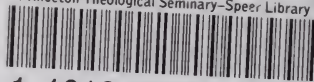
From the 20th of February to the 20th of March, 1871.

MAINE.		
By Rev. J. K. Converse, (\$40.00.)		
<i>South Berwick</i> —Cong. Ch. and Society to const. Dea. NATHANIEL HOBBS a L. M. \$30; Charles E. Norton second inst. to const. Mrs. SALOME B. NORTON a L. M. \$10.....	40 00	
NEW HAMPSHIRE.		
<i>Hollis</i> —Mrs. Leonard Jewett.....	10 00	
VERMONT.		
<i>Northfield</i> —Rev. William S. Hazen.....	2 00	
By Rev. J. K. Converse, (\$168.00.)		
<i>St. Johnsbury</i> —Hon. Horace Fairbanks, Henry Fairbanks, Mrs. Franklin Fairbanks, each \$30; Hon. Moses Kittridge, \$10; Charles Dana, A. E. Rankin, Cash, each \$5; Mrs. Thomas Kidder, \$3; F. Bingham, Thomas L. Hall, Mrs. C. M. Stone, E. A. Walker, each \$2; George Aldrich, \$1.....	127 00	
<i>Newbury</i> —Add'l—Freeman Keyes.....	30 00	
<i>Barnet</i> —Robert Harvey, \$5; L. L. Hazen, \$2; I. O. Hoyt, S. S. Clark, Mrs. J. D. Abbott, M. D. Johnson, each \$1.....	11 00	
	170 00	
CONNECTICUT.		
<i>New Haven</i> —R. S. Fellowes.....	30 00	
By Rev. D. C. Haynes, (\$50.00.)		
An old Friend.....	50 00	
	80 00	
MASSACHUSETTS.		
<i>Lowell</i> —Mrs. Margaret B. Blanchard.....	200 00	
By Rev. D. C. Haynes, (\$547.00.)		
<i>Boston</i> —Hon. B. R. Curtis, George H. Kulm, each \$20; Norfolk and Baltimore Steamship Co., \$15; Judge B. F. Thomas, H. S. Chase, Rev. Dr. Gannett, each \$10; J. W. Blake, B. F. Reed, J. W. Brigham, each \$5; S. S. Blanchard, \$3.....	103 00	
<i>Marblehead</i> —Col. Baptist Ch., \$10; Rev. G. W. Patch, Jonathan Brown, W. H. Boynton, each \$5; others \$5, to const. Rev. G. W. PATCH a L. M.; First Cong. Ch., Miss A. Dana, Miss M. A. Harris, each \$10; N. P. Sanborn, \$5; others \$8, to const. N. P. SANBORN a L. M.....	63 00	
<i>Amherst</i> , add'l—Cash.....	1 00	
<i>Charlestown</i> —Dr. Henry Lyon, \$15; T. T. Sawyer, George Hyde, Wm. Carlton, James F. Hunnewell, each \$10; Geo. W.		
Little, S. P. Hill, R. Frothingham, Edward Lawrence, A. Carlton, each \$5.....	80 00	
<i>Haverhill</i> —Legacy of Samuel Chase, by C. W. & R. S. Chase, Ex'rs.....	500 00	
	747 00	
NEW YORK.		
By Rev. Dr. Orcutt, (\$404.00.)		
<i>New York City</i> —B. Aymar, A. Norrie, each \$100; Mrs. A. C. Brown, \$75; Mrs. E. S. Jaffray, \$20; R. E. Livingston, \$15; George Jones, \$12; Peter McMartin, Cash, each \$10; F. De P., G. D. H. Gillespie, each \$5; C. H. Scott, \$2.....	354 00	
<i>Brooklyn</i> —Mrs. Margaret Dimon.....	50 00	
	404 00	
PENNSYLVANIA.		
<i>Cross Cut</i> —A. D. Simpson.....	3 00	
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.		
<i>Washington</i> —Miscellaneous.....	1,278 76	
FOR REPOSITORY.		
NEW HAMPSHIRE — <i>East Hempsted</i> —Reuben Roundy, to Jan. 1, 1872.....	1 00	
VERMONT — <i>Barnet</i> —Rev. L. S. Watts, \$1. <i>St. Johnsbury</i> —John Hews, \$1. <i>Fair Haven</i> —Otis Eddy, \$1; J. Sheldon, \$1; each to April 1, 1872, by Rev. J. K. Converse.....	4 00	
NEW YORK — <i>New York City</i> —Clark & Maynard, to Sept. 1, 1871.....	4 00	
NEW JERSEY — <i>Trenton</i> —John S. Chambers, to Jan. 1, 1872.....	1 00	
PENNSYLVANIA — <i>Cross Cut</i> —A. D. Simpson, to Jan. 1, 1872.....	7 00	
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA — <i>Washington</i> —Miss S. Gaither, to Jan. 1, 1872.....	2 00	
NORTH CAROLINA — <i>Windsor</i> —Miss F. L. Roulhac, to Jan. 1, 1872.....	1 00	
TENNESSEE — <i>Murfreesboro</i> —T. S. Stewart, to Jan. 1, 1872.....	1 00	
KENTUCKY — <i>Birmingham</i> —G. W. Myett, to Oct. 1, 1871.....	50	
INDIANA — <i>Bloomington</i> —J. R. Hemphill.....	5 50	
MICHIGAN — <i>Farmington</i> —David Cudworth, to Jan. 1, 1872.....	2 00	
Repository.....	29 00	
Donations.....	1,154 00	
Legacy.....	500 00	
Miscellaneous.....	1,278 76	
Total	\$2,961 76	



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